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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 4329.2742



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KEIKO ITO ET AL.

Application No.: 10/086,381

Filed: March 4, 2002

For: METHOD OF PROLIFERATING A
MICROORGANISM CAPABLE OF
DEGRADING A HARD-TO-
DEGRADE ORGANIC
COMPOUND AND METHOD OF
DEGRADING A HARD-TO-
DEGRADE ORGANIC
COMPOUND

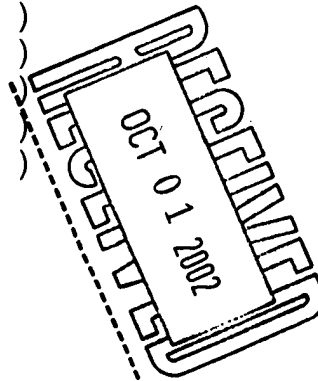
) Group Art Unit: 1744

) Examiner: Unknown

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2002
TC 1700



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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The following is a concise statement of relevance for each of the non-English language documents:

Japanese Publication No. 11-75826 discloses bacterium YMCT-003 which was isolated from a polluted environment and can degrade some organic compounds. Based on bacteriological character, it was identified *Pseudomonas cepacia* (FERM BP-6085).

Japanese Publication No. 9-201581 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,919,696 also submitted herewith.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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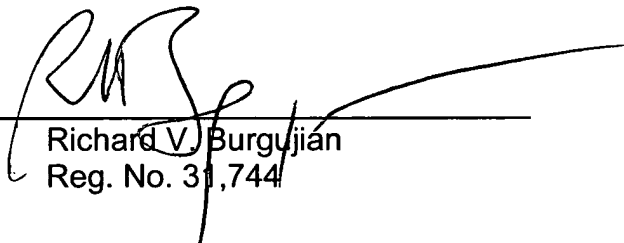
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: _____

By: _____


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 4329.2742	Appln. No. 10/086,381
Applicant Ito et al.	
Filing Date March 4, 2002	Group: 1744

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,919,696	7/6/99	Ikeda et al.			
						RECEIVED
						SEP 27 2002
						TC 1700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
11-75826	3/23/99	Japan			No
9-201581	8/5/97	Japan			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Imamura et al., "Janibacter brevis sp. nov., a new trichloroethylene-degrading bacterium isolated from polluted environments," International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (2000), 50:1899-1904
Maeda et al., "Multiple Genes Encoding 2,3-Dihydroxybiphenyl 1,2-Dioxygenase in the Gram-Positive Polychlorinated Biphenyl-Degrading Bacterium <i>Rhodococcus erythropolis</i> TA421, Isolated from a Termite Ecosystem," Applied and Environmental Microbiology (Feb. 1995), 61:549-555
Nakai et al., "Complete Nucleotide Sequence of the metapyrocatechase Gene on the TOL Plasmid of <i>Pseudomonas putida</i> mt-2," The Journal of Biological Chemistry (March 10, 1983), 258:2923-2928

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce